

Walleye Restoration in the Milwaukee River Estuary  
Open House  
November 30, 2004

### Walleye Contaminant Data

The presence of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in fish causes fish consumption advisories to be warranted for many fish from Lake Michigan and its tributaries. PCBs are synthetic substances that were used in the manufacture of electrical transformers, carbonless papers, cutting oils, and hydraulic fluids; and their use was banned in 1977. Some tributaries and harbors of Lake Michigan still contain concentrations of PCBs in sediments that enter into the food chain.

People intending on eating fish from Lake Michigan or its tributaries should consult the current fish consumption advisories that ranges from "unlimited consumption", "1 meal/week", "1 meal/month", "1 meal/2 months", to "do not eat" depending on the fish species and size. Studies indicate that children of women who have eaten a lot of contaminated fish may have lower birth weights and be delayed in physical development and learning. PCBs may affect reproductive function and the immune system and are also associated with cancer risk. PCBs are slow to break down in the environment, and fish absorb them from their food and from contaminated sediments suspended in the water. The fish consumption advisory provides information on how much fish you can eat safely.

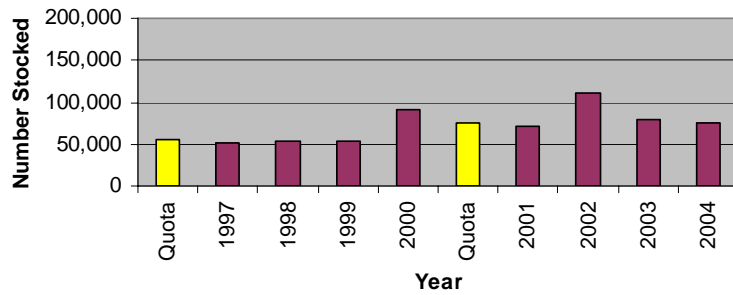
Some game fish from the lower Milwaukee River (below Estabrook Falls) and trout and salmon from Lake Michigan have shown improvement in their consumption category in recent years. For example, Chinook salmon are divided between two categories. In 1998, Chinooks up to 30 inches were considered safe at 1 meal per month. In 2004 Chinooks up to 32 inches fell into the same category. Walleye also showed a similar pattern. In 1998 they were considered safe at 1 meal every 2 months. More recently, PCB concentrations in walleye declined, and those less than 18 inches are now safe at 1 meal per month. The table below summarizes the recent consumption advisory trend.

	1998		2004	
Species	1 meal/month	1 meal/2 months	1 meal/month	1 meal/2 months
Brown Trout	Less than 22"	Larger than 22"	No change	
Chinook Salmon	Less than 30"	Larger than 30"	Less than 32"	Larger than 32"
Coho Salmon	All sizes		No change	
Lake Trout	Less than 23"	23 to 27"	No change	
Rainbow Trout	Larger than 17"		Larger than 22"	
Smallmouth Bass		All sizes	All sizes	
Walleye		All sizes	Less than 18"	Larger than 18"

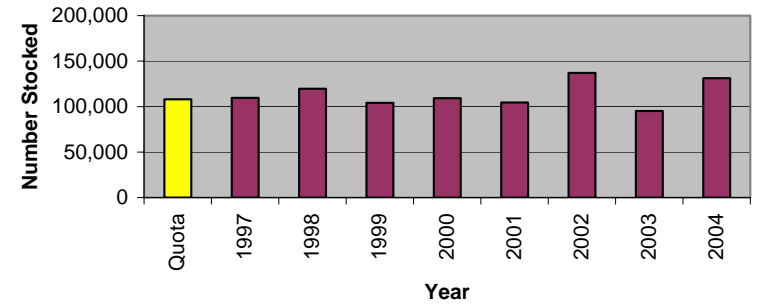
Data from WDNR Publication No. FH-824 1998 and 2004 revisions

## Milwaukee County Salmonid and Walleye Stocking Comparisons

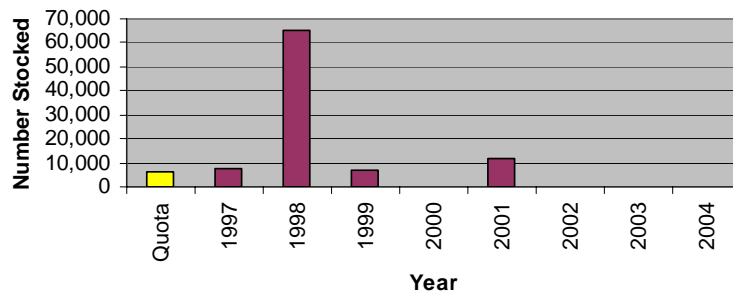
**Rainbow Trout Stocking - Milwaukee County 1997 - 2004**



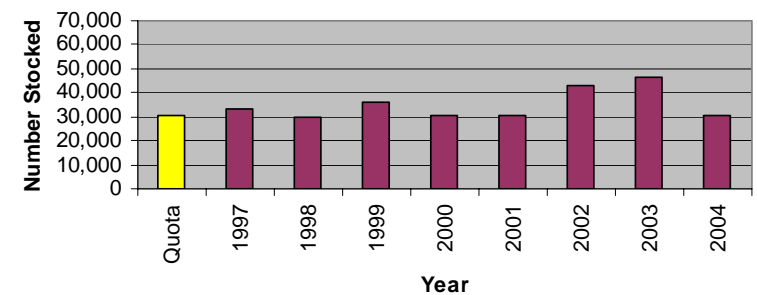
**Brown Trout Stocking - Milwaukee County 1997 - 2004**



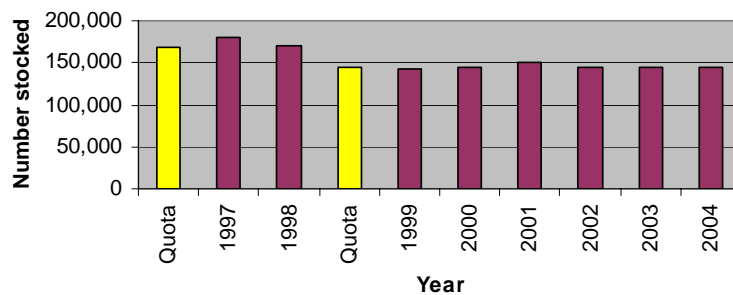
**Brook Trout Stocking - Milwaukee County 1997 - 2004**



**Coho Salmon Stocking - Milwaukee County 1997 - 2004**



**Chinook Salmon Stocking - Milwaukee County 1999 - 2004**



**Walleye Stocking - Milwaukee County 1995 - 2004**

